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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,829	12/27/2001	Zhun Zhong	US 010719	5503

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EXAMINER

LEE, Y YOUNG

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2621

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwahashi et al (5,197,087).

Iwahashi et al, in Figures 1 and 3, discloses a signal encoding apparatus that is the same system and method for encoding a stream of data blocks using a scalable encoder as specified in claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-21 of the present invention, the method comprising the steps of receiving a stream of data blocks 1; storing the received data blocks in a buffer (e.g. 11 or 12); encoding a first sequence of the stored data blocks from the buffer to produce a first encoded data block 17; monitoring the fullness level of the buffer for comparison with a predetermined threshold range to yield an outcome of the comparison 15; and adjusting the complexity (e.g. 15, 16) of the encoder 17 based on the outcome.

With respect to claims 2-6, 8-15, and 17-21, Iwahashi et al also discloses the step of decreasing or increasing the complexity of the encoder when the fullness level of

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the buffer exceeds an upper limit or is below a lower level of the predetermined threshold range 15, respectively according to a predetermined encoding configuration table (e.g. DCT); encoding a second data block at the decreased or increased complexity to produce a second encoded data block 17; maintaining the complexity of the encoder when the fullness level of the buffer falls within the predetermined threshold range 16; wherein the fullness level of the buffer is determined based on an input rate of the stream of video frames 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 7 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwahashi et al in view of Ishiyama (2001/0008544).

It is noted Iwahashi et al differs from the present invention in that it fails to particularly disclose any feed information from a memory as specified in claims 7 and 16. Ishiyama however, in Figures 1-8, teaches the concept of such well known storing of the encoded data blocks in a memory medium 40 for subsequent retrieval; and processing feedback information 105 from encoder 2 after producing the first encoded data block.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, having both the references of Iwahashi et al and Ishiyama before him/her, to incorporate the well known feedback technique as taught by Ishiyama in the encoding method of Iwahashi et al in order to accurately effect rate control.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9/7 8. Applicant's amendment ^{of 5/06} necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Y. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7334.

The examiner can normally be reached on (571) 272-7334.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on (571) 272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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James J. Groody
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 262 2621